

well-being of those who receive those services. We want to see poor people work their way out of poverty, increase their income, build their assets, and grow their businesses, and we also want to see them educate their children, achieve greater self-esteem, strengthen their families, and improve the quality of their lives.

I introduced the Microenterprise Results and Accountability Act of 2004 at the beginning of the 108th Congress, and the final product represents the culmination of months of hard work and discussion by Republicans and Democrats in both the House and Senate, members of the microenterprise community, and USAID, to build upon one of our most progressive and successful foreign aid programs.

This legislation is primarily about ensuring better results, not authorizing additional money. A comprehensive GAO report completed in November 2003 revealed that oversight and accountability of microenterprise programs administered by USAID is weak, and that programs are not having the desired effect of reaching the very poor—those earning less than the equivalent of \$1/day—to the greatest extent possible.

In response to those concerns, PL 108–484 builds-in accountability through a focus on cost-effectiveness and efficiency. The law establishes a dedicated Microenterprise Office within USAID which will approve strategic plans of field missions, establish a monitoring system in order to maximize the impact of programs and measure results, and coordinate preparation of a yearly report to Congress. The legislation also ensures that more funds go to the “very poor” through the development and implementation of easy-to-use, cost-effective poverty assessment techniques. Identifying and targeting the poorest potential clients who would stand to benefit most from microenterprise loans has proven to be more difficult than originally anticipated. I am hopeful that once developed, these poverty assessment techniques may prove useful not only for microenterprise but also in other areas of our foreign aid.

PL 108–484 also stipulates that USAID should emphasize the use of global microfinance networks and other non-profit private voluntary organizations in the implementation of microenterprise and microfinance programs. In the last two years, I am concerned that USAID has been shifting its focus away from non-profit organizations and networks to contractors in the implementation of the Agency’s microenterprise program.

While for-profit entities such as consulting firms are making excellent contributions in the areas of technical assistance, research and policy reform, global microfinance networks and non-profit private voluntary organizations have the operational experience and track record in microenterprise and microfinance service delivery to poor people. These organizations are able to get resources directly to clients, and are well positioned to reach the very poorest economically active entrepreneurs in the countries where they work. Further, such networks have built self-sustaining microfinance institutions that now cover, on average, almost all of their operating costs. More than \$150 million in earned revenue was captured by these institutions in

2002 to cover their operating costs, in addition to private donations that have added significant leverage to USAID’s investments. These networks have excelled in rapidly developing microfinance institutions in volatile and risky situations, including during the early stages of a country’s transition from war to peace.

When we provide microloans for the developing world, we export values upon which our nation is based upon, including the ideal that if you work hard and dream big, you can succeed.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SERVICE OF RAY CHRISTENSEN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the important contributions Ray C. Christensen has made to Colorado and the country’s agricultural community. Ray has served as the executive vice president of the Colorado Farm Bureau for the last 20 years and with his retirement, Colorado will lose a powerful advocate for agriculture.

Shortly after I was elected to the State legislature in 1996, I came to know Ray and was often reminded of how highly regarded he was at the State capitol. I was aware of agricultural issues, but hardly an expert—and I knew other legislators in both parties who took a somewhat disdainful attitude toward farm issues. Others felt that agricultural matters were best left to State legislators from rural areas. But as Lew Entz—now a State Senator—reminded me, “If you eat, you are in agriculture.”

I took that to heart then, and I take it to heart as a Member of Congress. From the farm to the table, nothing is plainer or more important, and no one embodies this truth better than Ray Christensen.

Ray’s professional biography makes this abundantly clear. He graduated from South Dakota University with a B.S. and graduate degrees in geography and agriculture. He has held positions at the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the Missouri River Basin Commission, and the office of Public Affairs for the Farm Bureau. He has also served on the Colorado Agricultural Council, Denver Agricultural and Livestock Club, Colorado Public Expenditures Council, Colorado Medical Society Foundation, CSU Cooperative Extension Advisory Council and Colorado Commission on Taxation.

As executive vice president of the Colorado Farm Bureau, Ray cultivated valuable relationships with Colorado businesses, environmental organizations, and social advocacy groups, ensuring long-term progress that spans beyond the agricultural community. Uniquely dedicated to cooperation and driven by the concerns of the family farm, Ray has provided invaluable service to Colorado agriculture.

Ray and I come from different walks of life and different political leanings, but I have always respected his depth of experience and his steadfast commitment to rural America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ray Christensen and in wishing

him success in all his future endeavors. It has been a privilege to work with him on a number of issues, and as a friend from Colorado once remarked to me, “It’s a whole lot better to have Ray on your side than the other way around.”

I couldn’t say it any better.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL MARY L. SAUNDERS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of MG Mary L. Saunders. General Saunders has served her country for more than 34 years and will retire from the United States Air Force on October 1, 2005.

General Saunders was born in Nacogdoches, TX, and grew up in Houston. She was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force after earning a bachelor’s degree from Texas Woman’s University in 1970, and served in a variety of assignments during her military career, excelling in key logistical positions. The general made her mark on Air Force logistics in a variety of transportation squadron, air terminal operations, and contingency plans staff positions. In August 1996, General Saunders was selected as the director of Transportation, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, DC. In 2004, the Department of Defense, in recognition of her superb organizational skills, appointed the general as the vice director of the Defense Logistics Agency, DLA, Fort Belvoir, VA.

From early in her career, General Saunders’ exceptional leadership abilities were evident to both superiors and subordinates as she repeatedly proved herself in select command positions. These include serving as deputy commander and commander, Military Air Traffic Coordinating Office, Military Traffic Management Command, McGuire AFB, NJ; commander, 475th Transportation Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan; and commander, Defense Supply Center, Columbus, OH.

During her long service as a logistics expert, General Saunders was a crucial voice for critical Air Force policy and programs, always providing clear, concise and timely counsel to her service’s senior leaders. Her later role in the joint service arena proved invaluable to the Department of Defense as she led a variety of logistics, acquisition, and technical services for DLA in times of peace and conflict. Always, the general put a human face to the Air Force’s core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. Her increasingly responsible positions and public recognition bear this out.

I am especially pleased to note that upon her retirement, General Saunders plans to return to her home State of Texas to continue

her life of service at her alma mater. In January 2006, she will become the executive director of the Leadership Institute at Texas Woman's University at Denton.

As General Saunders transitions from her role as a military leader to a community leader, we wish her great health and happiness. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt appreciation for her many years of service. I am confident in the years ahead, Mary Saunders will continue to leave her indelible mark on our country.

THE MILITARY VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE CONFIDENTIALITY ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Military Victims of Violence Confidentiality Act. This important piece of legislation will ensure greater protections for women in the military who are victims of violence by keeping their medical and counseling records confidential and allowing them to obtain valuable treatment services without further victimization.

The military should be at the forefront of prosecuting assailants and setting the highest standards for treatment of service women victimized by sexual assault and domestic violence. Yet, our Armed Forces have failed to enforce the most basic protections to ensure these victims can receive necessary counseling and treatment. Counseling and treatment is essential to begin the healing process, and service members should be able to seek access to these services without fear of exposure or public humiliation.

Recently, the issue of protecting confidential communications was brought to light in the case of *U.S. v. Harding*. Ms. Jessica Brakey was allegedly sexually assaulted in 2000 while serving as a cadet at the Air Force Academy. Following the assault, Ms. Brakey sought counseling by victim advocate, Ms. Jennifer Bier—a civilian who was contracted by the military. Under Colorado's rape shield law, the disclosure of a victim's counseling records is prohibited. However, the military court issued an extremely broad subpoena for Ms. Brakey's treatment records with Ms. Bier, as well as her complete 10-year medical history. When Ms. Bier refused to turn over these records to the military court, the judge suspended the case against the alleged assailant.

Unfortunately, this precedent setting case sent a clear message to the thousands of women in the military who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence each year that the Armed Forces will not protect you. It is critical that we take appropriate action to ensure that victims of these crimes are able to seek treatment and counseling without repercussion.

Although this bill is supported by many organizations that work to prevent and respond to sexual assault and domestic violence, the need for this legislation is also recognized within the military. The Department of Defense's, DoD, own Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies issued a report in June 2005 which recommended that "Congress should

create a statutory privilege protecting communications made by victims of sexual assault to health care providers and victim advocates. This privilege should extend to both medical health care providers and to those victim advocates designated and trained to perform that duty in a manner prescribed by DoD regulation."

This is exactly what my bill will do. The Military Victims of Violence Confidentiality Act will establish comprehensive confidentiality protocols to protect the rights of victims within military law. Under my bill, communications made to secure advice, counseling, treatment or assistance concerning a victim's mental, physical, or emotional state will remain confidential. Moreover, a victim will be able to refuse to disclose and prevent any other person from disclosing a confidential communication.

If a victim's doctor and advocate cannot protect the confidentiality of treatment sessions, sexual assault and domestic violence victims will be unlikely to seek essential care for fear of stigma, public embarrassment, or threats to their career. Consequently, the military will continue to lose valuable women soldiers. These women put themselves in harm's way to protect us and our Nation from threats at home and abroad. The military should work as hard to ensure they are protected when dealing with a horrible tragedy.

Do not allow our brave service members to be victimized twice, once by their perpetrator and then again by the lack of appropriate, compassionate, and confidential care. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in cosponsoring the Military Victims of Violence Confidentiality Act.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of the great figures in Jewish and world history, the late Simon Wiesenthal. Mr. Wiesenthal, a Holocaust survivor who crusaded to ensure that those responsible for the Holocaust were brought to justice, passed away earlier today in his home in Vienna, Austria. Simon Wiesenthal followed his creed of "justice, not vengeance" and oversaw the arrest, capture and conviction of many Nazi war criminals.

Simon Wiesenthal was imprisoned at five German Concentration camps during the Nazi Holocaust, narrowly escaping execution on numerous occasions. After he was liberated, Mr. Wiesenthal went to work for the United States Army and began gathering information to be used in the Nazi war crimes trials. After the Nuremberg trials, while the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union were no longer interested in pursuing Nazi war criminals, Wiesenthal continued the charge to arrest and convict those responsible for the genocide of more than eleven million innocent people, including six million Jews and 89 of Wiesenthal's personal relatives.

Wiesenthal's most celebrated capture was that of Adolf Eichmann, one of Hitler's main engineers of his final solution. While Eichmann's wife claimed that he was dead,

Wiesenthal was able to prove that the evidence for his death was insufficient. Wiesenthal then assisted Israeli efforts to track down Eichmann. Eventually, the war criminal was caught and executed thanks in large part to Wiesenthal's efforts.

After the extremely high profile capture of Eichmann, Wiesenthal was able to gather enough support to continue in his efforts. He continued his mission and was able to secure the arrests and convictions of other important Nazis. His work led to the capture of Karl Silberbauer, a member of the German Gestapo who arrested Anne Frank. Silberbauer's confessions disproved the claims that The Diary of Anne Frank was a forgery. Wiesenthal was also instrumental in the capture and conviction of Franz Stangl who was in charge of running the Treblinka and Sobibor concentration camps. Wiesenthal also is credited with locating Hermine Braunsteiner-Ryan, a housewife living in New York who had supervised the murder of hundreds of children during the war.

Simon Wiesenthal believed that it was his mission to ensure that the victims of the Holocaust were not forgotten and that the type of atrocities that occurred during the Second World War do not happen to anyone anywhere ever again. Personally, I was honored to have made his acquaintance and was humbled by his presence.

Thanks to Simon Wiesenthal's lifelong dedication to the cause and organizations such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center, neither he nor the victims of the Nazi atrocities will ever be forgotten. It is now our responsibility to continue the vision of Simon Wiesenthal. We can not allow the horror of what occurred at Auschwitz and Treblinka and the other concentration camps to be erased from our memory; we can not allow racism and hatred to fester to the point where genocide becomes an option; and we can not allow those who commit acts of genocide to walk away without having to answer for the horrific crimes they have committed. The world has lost a champion for compassion and humanity in the death of Simon Wiesenthal. May his memory always be a blessing unto all of us.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened today to learn of the death of Simon Wiesenthal, one of the world's great humanitarians. Over the past 50 years he tirelessly fought to preserve the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and dared the world to learn from their mistakes.

Wiesenthal, along with his wife Cyla, survived the Holocaust determined to bring those responsible to justice, for this, the most monstrous event in the history of the modern world. Though he weighed only 100 lbs when he was liberated from the notorious Mauthausen concentration camp, Wiesenthal soon began the enormous task of compiling evidence against Nazi war criminals.

Even before the war ended, Wiesenthal was working with the U.S. Army to gather evidence